



School of Management – Tourism Management Group

# TOURISM MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

We are pleased to present the following seminar in our 2012 series:

**Dr Christian Schott**

Tourism Management, School of Management, Victoria University of Wellington

## *Virtual fieldtrips and sustainable tourism education: an exploratory examination*

Thursday, 29 March 2012, 12:15 - 13:15, followed by coffee  
Rutherford House, 23 Lambton Quay, Level 12, Boardroom

In an educational environment exhibiting growing recognition that students benefit from experiential learning, as the world and the profile of university learners changes, the practice of fieldtrips as a means of allowing for experiential, complex and situated learning to occur is challenged by a variety of factors. Most notably these factors include financial constraints on behalf of students as well as institutions, liability concerns and with increasing importance the Greenhouse Gas contributions generated by educational tourism. In particular, educators in the area of sustainable development are faced by a dilemma in that in order to deepen and broaden student's learning about the need and realities of sustainable development they often use unsustainable transportation, such as airplanes, and contribute to anthropogenic climate change which is a major challenge for developing countries, in particular. Set against this context, the seminar will provide an exploratory examination of the concept of 'virtual' fieldtrips and its climate change-related benefits by discussing an example of digital immersion learning based on a remote Fijian island.

Christian is a Senior Lecturer in Tourism Management at Victoria. His research interests cover three broad areas of tourism. 1) the tourist-environment interface with particular focus on Sustainable Tourism Development and Climate Change. 2) young peoples' travel motivations and the concept of self-development in travel. 3) teaching and learning in Tourism Management.